

REMARKS

Claims 15-25 stand rejected; and claims 17, 18 and 20-25 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 17, to recite that the first air conductive wire is adapted for air-conductively connecting to a sensor and the second air conductive wire is adapted for connecting to an engine control unit under electric and air connection. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Withdrawn claims 1-14 and 26-28 have also been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the canceled subject matter.

In response to the objection to the disclosure as set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, paragraph [0008] has been amended to delete reference to the claims, and to more generally state that the object of the invention is achieved by the solutions described (in the specification) below.

In response to the objection as set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the term “electric” has been replaced with --electricity-- in claims 15, 18, 20 and 25 as suggested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objections is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 15 has been amended to recite that the connector assembly includes sealing means for establishing an air conduction path hermetically sealed from the exterior as suggested by the Examiner. See paragraph [0030]. Claim 16 has been amended to positively recite that the terminals are

electrically connected either directly or indirectly. Claim 18 has been amended to recite that the connector assembly is connected under electricity and air connection to a control unit for a a sensor. Claim 20 does not separately refer to hermetic sealing, and the rejection with respect to claim 20 is not understood. In any event, claim 15 has been amended to recite sealing means.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-83843 (JP '843) to Nishio et al. The Examiner considered JP '843 as meeting each of the terms of the rejected claims, including a connector system 20 for establishing both electric and air connection between at least two wires 14 and 18, the system including a shared terminal and an assembly configured to establish air conduction path 25 hermetically sealed from the exterior. With respect to claim 19, the Examiner cited JP '843 as teaching that the connector system includes at least one more electric wire making up a harness.

In response, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of allowable claim 17, to thereby obviate the rejection.

Applicants further comment as follows.

Fig. 5 of JP '843 clearly shows connector 30 connected with a sensor. The metal sheath lead wire 12 of Fig. 5 is also shown in Fig. 2 as connecting with the oxygen sensor 1. Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the connector for the metal sheath lead wire 12, whereas Fig. 5 shows a second embodiment thereof. Fig. 2 shows a connection between the sensor 1 and metal sheath lead wire 12. This is apparent from the drawings of JP '843 alone.

There is no disclosure in JP '843 of an air connection to an ECU, nor disclosure of the connector being mounted to the circuit board.

Applicants further present new claim 29 for the Examiner's consideration, directed to a connector system, including a sealing unit for hermetically sealing a spacing defined between the sensor side heater wire and the connector, and a sealing unit for hermetically sealing a spacing defined between the ECU use side heater wire and the connector.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 15, 16, 18-25 and 29 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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